

# Community of Grace

## Daily Walk for the week of September 7, 2020

### Psalm 85:10...Love

Written by Vernon Mukihall

#### Mon Sept 7 The Law Humbles Us

“You have dealt well with your servant, O LORD, according unto your word. Teach me good judgment and knowledge: for I have believed your commandments. Before I was afflicted I went astray: but now have I kept your word. You are good, and do good; teach me your statutes.” Psalm 119:65 – 67. At one time or another, you may have been afflicted by sickness, pain, or have encountered failures, disappointments, perhaps crisis after crisis. Perhaps you're angry and question what wrong you have done to deserve such affliction. As believers, we have a choice to make when we are faced with such afflictions. We can either cast blame while becoming resentful, angry, and bitter, or we can look up to God and seek his purpose for what we are going through. There are times when God, in His love, may use adversity to draw us closer and help us to have greater trust in Him. The Psalmist confessed that the affliction that he was suffering from was because he had disobeyed God's law. He also realized that the affliction was good for him because he had turned back to God. Any affliction that may help us to focus our lives on God is a blessing and we should have the courage of being thankful. It will become a bridge to having a greater relationship with our merciful and loving Father. Prayer: Gracious Father, there are times when I go through adversities and I question why such pain and suffering have become my lot. Help me to understand and accept that in such adversities you are still there shaping my life and growing my relationship with you. Amen.

#### Tue Sept 8 Forgiveness Is Love In Action

“And when they were come to the place, which is called Calvary, there they crucified him, and

the malefactors, one on the right hand, and the other on the left. Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.” Luke 23: 33 – 34. The cruel actions of the Roman soldiers who carried out the crucifixion of our Lord, Jesus Christ, did not understand the eternal implications of what they had done. They did not know that they were crucifying God's only Begotten Son, Jesus, who had come to give them Salvation. They were merely obeying the commands of their rulers. Those who put Jesus up for trial knew, from all evidence, that He was innocent, yet they cried out for Him to be crucified. As he was experiencing excruciating pain on the cross, Jesus lovingly asked the heavenly Father to forgive them because they were ignorant of their horrible actions. Jesus shows the compassion of his heart. There are many who have lost loved ones to violence and who have mustered up courage to forgive those who have done the killing. Although most of us have not endured such unimaginable calamity as the killing of a loved one, each of us has been wronged in some way – a friend abuses, a child rebels, an employer abuses. Luke records that Jesus extends his mercy to the soldiers and Jews just as he offers it to each of us. It is through Jesus' forgiveness of our sins that we find Salvation. This is the nature of God's unconditional love. No matter what we do, He still cares and encourages us to repent and return to Him. This is a standard that God has called us to. To have a compassionate heart like Jesus to forgive those who have done us wrong. Prayer: Merciful Father, help me to have a compassionate heart to forgive those who may have done me wrong. Give me the strength to offer the forgiveness you died to provide. Amen.

**Psalm 85:10...Forgiveness**  
**Written by Vicar Jamie Witt**

**Wednesday, September 9, 2020**

**Extending Forgiveness**

“And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.” Matthew 6:12. This verse comes from the part of Matthew’s gospel where Jesus instructs the disciples in how to pray by giving them the words that we call the Lord’s Prayer. Most of us have this prayer memorized and can say it at any time. We lift up this prayer on Sundays in worship. The words are comforting and familiar. Can familiarity cause us to inadvertently no longer feel the weight of the words? In this verse of the Lord’s Prayer we are asking for God’s forgiveness, which we always need to do because we are human and make mistakes. We believe in God’s steadfast love and infinite grace and know that we are forgiven. We go on then to say that we have extended that same forgiveness to others, but have we? I know I’ve struggled with this part of the prayer. When someone has hurt me, have I truly extended forgiveness as God has forgiven me or am I just saying the words? This part of the prayer is difficult because forgiveness can be difficult but necessary. God wants our forgiveness of one another to be as genuine as our asking for it from God. The love we receive from God we must extend to one another. Forgiveness, like love, can be a complicated and messy thing, which is why it’s so important to pray about it daily, just as Jesus tells us. Prayer: “Gracious Lord, thank You for the love and forgiveness I receive freely from You. Help me to receive it and then re-gift it to another. Amen.”

**Thursday, September 10, 2020**

**Anger, Distance, Forgiveness**

“Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God

in Christ has forgiven you.” Ephesians 4:31-32. The writer of Ephesians certainly lays out a list of every way possible that people can be ugly to each other. There’s no wiggle room here. We are tasked with setting aside every conceivable way to be cruel in favor of kindness. When we’re hurting this can seem like an impossible task. Perhaps this is where the idea of counting to 10 before saying something you might regret came from. Sometimes we need distance between the anger and the forgiveness. This verse makes it sound like it all happens in the moment but most of the time we need time to process our emotions. It’s okay to take that time. None of us wants to hang onto anger. Through prayer and God’s help in time we can put anger aside and reconnect with one another in the spirit of forgiveness after hurt. We have to be patient with ourselves and with others trusting that when we bring our pain to God, God will work in and through it to bring reconciliation. Prayer: “Lord, when I’m angry and frustrated help to slow me down. Help me to find distance so I don’t make the pain worse with hurtful words. Help me to find a way to quell anger and raise kindness. Amen.”

**Friday, September 11, 2020**

**Rest in Grace**

“The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.” Psalm 103:8. The depth and enormity of God’s love for us continually amazes me. When I consider all that humankind has done throughout the centuries, I am in awe of how God can continue to choose to walk with us and love us. That is most certainly grace upon grace. God is able to look past our mistakes, our sinful sides, and see the beauty in what God created. God sees the good parts of us, even when we struggle to. When God created all things, God saw that they were good, humankind included. God made a promise to humanity after the flood to always work with humans even if they made

mistakes. God would love and support us and continue to work in the midst of a broken world. God placed God's bow in the clouds as a reminder to Godself of this incredible promise, and God always keeps God's promises. That promise, love, and grace is extended to us daily. Forgiveness is there, we need only ask and receive. Prayer: "Lord, when I have made a mistake and feel the weight of guilt that goes with it, please remind me to ask for forgiveness both of the person I hurt and You. Help me to also forgive myself and remember that I am human. Thank You for Your constant love and grace in my life. Amen."

**Saturday, September 12, 2020**

**God's Work Through & With Us**

"Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today." Genesis 50:20. Joseph says these words to the jealous brothers that sold him into slavery to get rid of him, so in their minds, they no longer had to compete with him for their father's affections. While his brothers certainly intended their actions to harm Joseph, God had another plan. God promised to work with humanity's mistakes, and this is an example of that promise in action. Instead of possible death and suffering God works in Joseph's situation saving both him and the people by elevating Joseph to a trusted position with Pharaoh. God will never abandon us. Bad things do happen. God is not there to stop the bad things from happening, but God is there to let us know we are not alone in facing them. God is also with us when we are faced with extending forgiveness to those who hurt us, as Joseph is in this verse. Joseph sees the wisdom and work of God that has come through him. Instead of keeping that knowledge to himself he shares it with his brothers and forgives them. He allows love to bring them together again, and God is also in the midst of that too. Prayer: "Loving

God, thank You for working with my mistakes and for at times finding ways for good to come from them. Help me to extend forgiveness to others and may You also be there with them when they are called to extend the same to me. Amen."

**Sunday, September 13, 2020**

**Psalm 85:10...Forgiveness**

"Then Peter came and said to him, 'Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?' Jesus said to him, 'Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.'" Matthew 18:21-22. Jesus is laying a lot on Peter and on us here. Our forgiveness is not meant to have an end to it. We are meant to extend forgiveness to those who have wronged us and never hold onto that resentment. God knows that forgiveness is not just about the person that sinned against us, but it is also about us. Holding on to anger and resentment can poison our own selves. It can eat at us and cause negative changes in us. God wants us to forgive not just for the other person but for us as well. God wants us to free ourselves from anger and resentment. God wants us to find peace after a situation that we can't change but that we can learn from and then let go. God is there to absorb our anger and comfort those feelings of hurt. A close friend of mine will always remind me that "it's okay to feel angry and hurt, but just don't stay there." The "not staying there" is where God and forgiveness comes in. Take it to God and let God help you find a way toward forgiveness for the other and for yourself. Prayer: "God of forgiveness and love, when I'm hurting from something someone else has done remind me that forgiveness will help me move out of that place. Help me let go and release my anger and hurt and let love back in. Amen."